

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199055

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, CA

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON VISIT BY GEOFFREY PEARSON

1. SUMMARY: CANADIAN EXTAFF DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR  
UN AFFAIRS GEOFFREY PEARSON MET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
MAYNES AUGUST 17; MEETING COVERED ISSUES OF ILO,  
LAGOS CONFERENCE, NAMIBIA, PEACEKEEPING, AND  
HUMAN RIGHTS. IT WAS AGREED CANADA AND US WOULD  
HOLD FORMAL PRE-UNGA BILATERAL IN NEW YORK SEPT. 15  
(SEPTEL). HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVERSATION FOLLOW:  
END SUMMARY.

2. ILO: PEARSON NOTED CANADA HAD UNUSUAL INTEREST  
IN ILO SINCE JOE MORRIS, A CANADIAN LABOR DELEGATE,  
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HAD BEEN ELECTED TO HEAD THE ILO GOVERNING BODY.  
RESPONDING TO PEARSON'S QUESTION, MAYNES SAID THAT  
PARTICIPANTS IN THE CABINET LEVEL MEETING HAD  
UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO WAIT UNTIL LATE OCTOBER  
BEFORE MAKING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE PRESIDENT  
ON ILO WITHDRAWAL. AT THAT TIME, WE WOULD REVIEW  
THE OVERALL SITUATION INCLUDING DEVELOPMENTS IN  
THE COMING WEEKS. MAYNES STRESSED THAT US DID NOT  
GO INTO THE JUNE ILO MEETING WITH AN AGENDA THAT  
IT INSISTED BE IMPLEMENTED ON ALL POINTS, BUT THE PERCEP-

TION THAT THE US HAD BEEN ROLLED BACK ON VIRTUALLY ALL ISSUES - ESPECIALLY THE VOTE ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS - HAD BEEN DEVASTATING. HOWEVER, NEXT TWO MONTHS MIGHT BE USED TO PERMIT NEW EVIDENCE RELEVANT TO US DECISION TO EMERGE. OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE TO TAKE LEAD, THOUGH. PEARSON INDICATED CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AND CANADIAN UNIONS WOULD WORK WITH THEIR OPPOSITE NUMBERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES ON THIS ISSUE, BUT HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT MANY NON-IMEC COUNTRIES COULD BE PERSUADED TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF US POSITION. PEARSON SAID THAT IF GOC DECIDED TO ADDRESS PRESIDENT CARTER OR SECRETARY VANCE ON THIS QUESTION, THEY WOULD STRESS NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS OF WITHDRAWAL FOR UN SYSTEM AS A WHOLE. MAYNES AGREED US WITHDRAWAL COULD HAVE NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS FOR UN SYSTEM, BUT OTHER SIDE OF COIN WAS THAT DOMESTIC OPINION WOULD FORCE US OUT OF ILO AT SOME POINT IN ANY EVENT IF CERTAIN TRENDS WERE NOT REVERSED.

3. LAGOS CONFERENCE: DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HELMAN  
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STATED US WAS CONCERNED ABOUT SIGNS THAT ARABS AND OTHERS INTENDED TO MAKE ISRAEL A TARGET AT THE CONFERENCE. US CONCERN STEMMED, IN PARTICULAR, FROM THE RECENT SOVIET CHARGE THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS ABOUT TO TEST A NUCLEAR DEVICE AND THAT ISRAEL AND THE NATO POWERS WERE ASSISTING SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT. APART FROM THE CONTENT OF THE CHARGE, THE US WAS WORRIED THAT IT WAS DESIGNED BY THE USSR TO UNDERCUT OUR SOUTHERN AFRICAN INITIATIVES. US THOUGHT THE ISRAELI DECISION NOT TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE - WHICH US HAD LEARNED OF ONLY AUGUST 17 - COULD EXACERBATE THE SITUATION. IN RESPONSE TO PEARSON'S INTERPRETATION THAT THE ABSENCE OF ISRAELI REP. - HERZOG IN PARTICULAR - MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN THAT POLEMICAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND OTHERS WOULD BE AVOIDED, HELMAN STATED THAT ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF PRIOR ISRAELI INDICATION THAT THEY WOULD ATTEND, AN ISRAELI ABSENCE COULD BE INTERPRETED AS AN ADMISSION OF GUILT TO THE SOVIET CHARGES. ISRAELI ABSENCE WOULD ALSO MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE ARAB RADICALS TO CONVINCE THE AFRICANS THAT THE ISRAELIS DON'T CARE ABOUT APARTHEID. ON BALANCE, PEARSON SAID HE AGREED ISRAELIS SHOULD ATTEND.

4. NAMIBIA: PEARSON SAID CANADA WAS DISAPPOINTED AT THE SYG'S LETHARGY ON THE NAMIBIA QUESTION AND INQUIRED WHAT THE US SAW AS THE NEXT STEP. MAYNES

SAID THE US SHARED CANADA'S CONCERN ON THE SYG'S INACTIVITY. ALSO UNFORTUNATE WAS THE SOUTH AFRICANS' INTENTION TO INSTALL THEIR ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL BY SEPT. 1; THIS SUGGESTED A NEED TO GET THE SOUTH AFRICANS' EARLY ACCEPTANCE OF UN COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA AHTISAARI AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE. HELMAN SUGGESTED THAT TWO STEPS HAD TO BE TAKEN NOW. FIRST, WALDHEIM WOULD HAVE TO BE INDUCED TO POSE  
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THE RIGHT QUESTION TO SWAPO SO THAT HE COULD GET A GREEN LIGHT TO PROCEED WITH PLANNING A UN ROLE FOR NAMIBIA. SECOND, THE RESULTS OF THE SWAPO TALKS WOULD HAVE TO BE COMMUNICATED TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS WHO WOULD HAVE TO BE PERSUADED TO POSTPONE GAZETTING THEIR ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL. THE SOUTH AFRICANS WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE PRESSED FOR THEIR PHASED WITHDRAWAL PLAN. WE WILL ALSO HAVE TO FIND SOME MEANS TO BRING THE PARTIES CLOSER TOGETHER SO THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD TAKE PLACE MORE EFFICIENTLY.

5. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN NAMIBIA, MAYNES SAID SWAPO HAD MADE IT CLEAR IT WOULD WELCOME SUCH A FORCE. US WAS ALSO INCLINED TO VIEW THAT FORCE WILL BE NEEDED TO BRING ABOUT CLIMATE OF CONFIDENCE NEEDED FOR SETTLEMENT SCENARIO. PEARSON SAID CANADA COULD AGREE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF A PEACEKEEPING UNIT TO OBSERVE AND MONITOR EVENTS IN NAMIBIA, BUT WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE SUCH A UNIT INVOLVED IN ACTUAL COMBAT OPERATIONS. FOR THIS REASON, CANADA DID NOT LIKE THE TERM QUOTE FORCE UNQUOTE. US SIDE SUGGESTED THAT FOR AN AGREEMENT TO BE EFFECTIVE, HOWEVER, A GROUP ORGANIZED IN MILITARY FASHION WOULD BE NEEDED TO PRESERVE SECURITY ALONG THE FRONTIER. THIS WOULD INVOLVE OBSERVATION, NOT COMBAT. A PROPERLY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT SHOULD AVOID THE CONGO-TYPE RISK WHICH PEARSON APPARENTLY HAD IN MIND. PEARSON DID NOT THINK THIS ISSUE WOULD BE A PROBLEM IF SOUTH AFRICA AGREED TO A PHASED WITHDRAWAL SINCE IN THAT EVENT GUERRILLAS WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO HARRASS THE SOUTH AFRICANS.

6. IN CLOSING NAMIBIA DISCUSSION MAYNES SAID HAVING  
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COME AS FAR AS WE HAVE IT WAS IMPORTANT TO SEE THE NAMIBIA PROBLEM THROUGH TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. PEARSON AGREED AND SUGGESTED WHEN, AS IN THE NAMIBIA SITUATION, THE UN WAS ABLE TO PLAY AN EFFECTIVE ROLE,

THE ARGUMENT FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE UN WAS STRENGTHENED. PEARSON CONCLUDED THAT A UNIT IN NAMIBIA ALONG THE LINES OF UNEF WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE FROM THE CANADIAN POINT OF VIEW.

7. PEACEKEEPING: PEARSON INDICATED CANADA HOPED TO SEE PROGRESS IN THE COMMITTEE ON PEACEKEEPING'S WORK ON THE PEACEKEEPING GUIDELINES. IN RESPONSE TO MAYNES' POINT THAT MOVEMENT ON NAMIBIA COULD HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE COMMITTEE'S WORK ON GUIDELINES, PEARSON SAID THAT THE THEORY AND PRACTICE WERE MUTUALLY REINFORCING. PEARSON FELT THAT IF FINANCIAL GUIDELINES EXISTED IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR COUNTRIES LIKE CANADA TO PARTICIPATE IN PEACEKEEPING UNITS. UNP DIRECTOR BARRY POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT AN ATTEMPT TO AGREE WITH SOVIETS ON PEACEKEEPING GUIDELINES AT THIS STAGE MIGHT BE SEEN BY MOSCOW AS AN EFFORT TO SET THE STAGE FOR PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA AND BE RESISTED FOR THAT REASON. IN CONCLUDING, MAYNES SAID US WAS LOOKING AT DIFFERENT FORMULATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE PEACEKEEPING GUIDELINES. PEARSON HOPED TO DISCUSS THE PEACEKEEPING GUIDELINES QUESTION FURTHER DURING THE SEPTEMBER US-CANADA BILATERALS IN NEW YORK.

8. HUMAN RIGHTS: PEARSON ASKED WHAT THE US POSITION WAS NOW ON THE FOUR HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS ANNOUNCED AN INTENTION TO SEEK RATIFICATION. MAYNES RESPONDED THAT WE WERE CONCENTRATING OUR EFFORTS ON THE GENOCIDE CONVENTION WHICH THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION IN 1976 HAD FINALLY DECIDED TO SUPPORT. WE HOPED  
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FOR EARLY AUTUMN RATIFICATION AND WOULD THEN TURN TO THE OTHER CONVENTIONS. PEARSON SAID CANADA WAS CONSIDERING INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION AT THE FALL UNGA CALLING FOR RATIFICATION OF UN GENOCIDE CONVENTION AND ASKED IF THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THE US. HELMAN SAID THE IDENTITY OF THE CO-SPONSORS COULD BE IMPORTANT AND BARRY NOTED THAT A RESOLUTION COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT IF IT WERE PERCEIVED AS CRITICISM OF THE US. IN RESPONSE TO PEARSON'S QUERY, MAYNES SAID THAT THE US FAVORED REVIVING THE PROPOSAL FOR A HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. US WAS CONSIDERING WHETHER AN APPROPRIATE THIRD WORLD CANDIDATE WOULD MAKE ACCEPTANCE OF THE OFFICE EASIER. THE US DID UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTIES THAT WOULD BE ENTAILED, HOWEVER, AND DID NOT EXPECT THAT THE PROPOSAL COULD BE APPROVED DURING THIS ASSEMBLY. PEARSON THOUGHT RAISING THE ISSUE COULD GO BOTH WAYS AND CONCEIVABLY COULD PRODUCE A DIFFICULT

DEBATE. MAYNES SAID THE US WAS AWARE OF THIS AND WOULD NOT WANT TO BRING THE ISSUE TO A VOTE. FINALLY, ON QUESTION OF HOLDING TWO MEETINGS EACH YEAR INSTEAD OF ONE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, PEARSON SAID

CANADA WAS SKEPTICAL SINCE HRC HAD NEVER BEEN VERY EFFECTIVE. INDEED HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION WAS A LOSING BATTLE IN THE UN AND FIGHTING IT ONLY UNDERMINED THE CREDIBILITY OF THE UN IN THE EYES OF WESTERN OPINION. MAYNES DISAGREED AND NOTED THAT LAST YEAR THE COMMISSION HAD BROKEN NEW GROUND BY LEAVING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY SEVERAL CASES ON ITS AGENDA INSTEAD OF BURYING THEM - WHICH AMOUNTED TO A SLAP AT THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED. PEARSON CONCEDED THAT THIS YEAR'S CONFIDENTIAL

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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING WAS THE BEST ON RECORD.

9. INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: AT LUNCH WITH PEARSON, MAYNES AND BARRY RAISED QUESTION OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, POINTING OUT THAT CANADA COULD HELP BY ESTABLISHING MONTHLY OR QUARTERLY QUOTAS. PEARSON NOTED THAT UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER WOULD BE VISITING OTTAWA IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS AND THAT GOC MAY BE IN POSITION TO DO SOMETHIN.

10. GENEVA GROUP: PEARSON SAID CANADA HAD BEEN RE-EXAMINING PROGRAMS AND BUDGETS OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. CONCLUSION AT THIS POINT WAS THAT MOST AGENCIES DOING VALUABLE AND IMPORTANT WORK AND THAT WHILE UPPER LIMITS MUST BE SET, AGENCIES SHOULD CONTINUE TO GROW AND BUDGETS SHOULD BE INCREASED. CANADIANS PLAN TO ARRIVE AT NEXT GENEVA GROUP MEETING WITH LISTS OF HIGH PRIORITY AND LOW PRIORITY PROGRAMS OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES.

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